

Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME 25

OCTOBER 1975

NUMBER 8

A Giant Step — Uplands Leases Craft Building

What seems at the time to be a very simple and insignificant event often represents in the long range a very important step forward. This is true about

PRIORITIES SET BY GENERAL SYNOD

The Tenth General Synod, meeting in Minneapolis, voted thirty internal and external programs for the next biennium. Delegates indicated priorities as follows:

1. *Women in Church and Society
2. Local Church Vitality
3. *World Food Crisis
4. Evangelism
5. Reclaiming Christian Education
6. Stewardship
7. Search for Faith
8. *Racial and Economic Justice
9. *Christian Life Style and Ecology
10. *Criminal Justice and Penal Reform
11. *Quality Care for Older Persons
12. Pension Supplements
13. *Comprehensive Health Care
14. Black Church Development
15. Ministries with Native Americans
16. *Human Sexuality and Needs of Gay and Bisexual Persons
17. Ministries with Hispanic Americans
18. Support of Theological Education
19. *Native American Treaty Rights
20. Ministries with Pacific and Asian Americans
21. *Role of Transnational Business
22. *The Bicentennial and Global Interdependence
23. Preservation of Church's Traditions and Records
24. *Concern for Southern Africa

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the signing of an agreement by Uplands to lease from the Pleasant Hill Community Church the building known as the Craft Shop. For one thing, the lease represents a new spirit of cooperation between the local United Church of Christ congregation and Uplands. More than this, the use of this building offers Uplands the opportunity of moving the administrative offices to a more central and functional location. At present, the administrative offices are located on the lower level of Wharton Nursing Home, where they are far less accessible to the retirement community than is desirable, and where they occupy space needed to expand the nursing unit into a more economical facility.

Uplands has leased the building from the church for forty years for \$1.00, with the option to renew the lease at the end of the forty years. Plans are already underway to remodel the building, with the only delay being the necessary capital outlay. The building was originally built with money from the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Christian Church for the purpose of helping to encourage local residents to preserve and market native crafts. The building was given to the Pleasant Hill Community Church by the denomination, and for a number of years was operated as a craft shop. Recent changes in the area, however, make it more feasible to discontinue this program.

The Board of Directors of Uplands hopes it will be possible to generate enough money to remodel the building to house the administrative offices, a dining area accessible to the community, a gift shop and craft area, and a fellowship area to accommodate local church retreats and workshops. According to agreement, space will also be provided in the building for an office for the church.



L to R: Warren Blankenhorn, James Cowlshaw, David Landerhans, and Jackie Shrago. June 4, 1975 Outreach Commission Planning Meeting, Berry College, Rome, Ga.

Outreach Continues Stewardship at Rome

Rev. David Langerhans, Stewardship Council, Philadelphia, Pa., will continue the Seminar on Stewardship with the Outreach Commission, October 15 and 16, at Berry College, Rome, Ga.

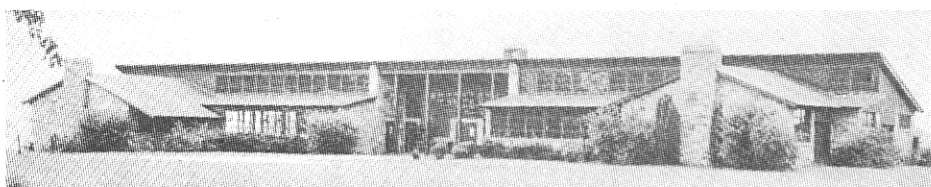
The Commission began their study in June, 1975. Warren A. Blankenhorn, James E. Cowlshaw, and Jackie Shrago are shown here with Mr. Langerhans, second from right, at the June meeting.

UCC-SEC Respond To World Food Crisis

A regional consultation on "The United Church of Christ Responds to the World Food Crisis" was held in Atlanta, September 15-16, 1975, at Central Congregational Church. This was one of six regional consultations sponsored by the Inter-Agency Staff Working Group on World Hunger, authorized by the Tenth General Synod, to coordinate denominational action in the field of world hunger.

Four U.C.C. Conferences were represented at this Southern Region Consultation, plus key national staff representing denominational agencies with programs and planning involving world hunger. The four Conferences sending delegates and their Conference Ministers were: Southern

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THE WORLD'S GREATEST PICNIC

The second annual East Alabama-West Georgia Churchman's Fellowship picnic was a great success with almost 200 people from 13 churches attending. The scene of this year's picnic was the Arts and Crafts Festival grounds of the Oak Grove Church near Pine Mountain, Ga., on September 14.

Festivities began with the annual softball game of Georgia vs. Alabama, with 15 to 20 players in the field most of the time. Little kids and middle aged youngsters tried to outdo each other in errors. Finally, after an undetermined number of innings and a questionable score, both teams retired to less strenuous horseshoe and volleyball and a bountiful picnic dinner.

Light entertainment led by LaGrange United Church was followed by the devotional service, with Leon Lee of Langdale Church delivering the message.

Churches attending were: Alexander City Hunt Memorial, Columbus First, Columbus United, LaGrange United, Langdale, Lanett, Todd, Phenix City First, Russell Woods, Oak Grove, Roanoke First, Lowell, and New Hope.

Warren Blankenhorn

Associations Meet in October

Except for the Ala.-Tenn. Association, which met with the Howard Church in Nashville, Sept. 27, the other Associations meet in October:

Oct. 4 — N. Ala., Old Liberty Church, Town Creek, Ala.

Oct. 11 — E. Ala., Hillside Church, LaGrange, Ga.

Oct. 18 — So. Ala.-N.W. Fla., Antioch Church, Andalusia, Ala.

Oct. 19 — Central Ala., Mt. Olive Church, Tallassee, Ala.

Oct. 25 & 26 — Ga.-S.C., Bethany Church, Thomasville, Ga.

Churches and ministers report their activities, for they are members of Associations. Bible Study and worship will be held, for this is central in the life of a church.

The outreach of a church is important since "We are His servants in the service of men." Rev. W.W. Snyder, Executive Director of the Elon Home for Children, Elon College, N.C., will be speaking at two Associations: Ala.-Tenn. and Ga.-S.C.

Youth will be seen and heard as they plan for camping programs, ventures in Christian faith and service, and leadership in the years ahead.



Pyron's Chapel Calls Roy Bain

Rev. Roy T. Bain began his ministry at Pyron's Chapel, Baker, Florida, Sept. 1, 1975, after having served Union Grove Church, Haleyville, Ala., for the past four years.

Pyron's Chapel has renovated a house near the church. The Bains have moved in and are hard at work. His address: R. 1, Box 262, Baker, Fla. 32531.

Andrew Young Speaks on 'Being Black'

"I think that being black is part of an identity struggle that you have to deal with, just like you have to deal with having red hair. I think almost everybody of every race, creed and clan, you know, needs some kind of Bar Mitzvah, something that confirms your identity as to who you are and what you are. And I think my children have to go through that. One difference is that, whereas I went through it in my twenties and almost to my early thirties, my daughter, who's in college now, did it when she was a senior and in the last few years of high school; and the younger child is reading black literature as low as the sixth grade, which is where that identity struggle ought to be.

"The identity struggle in one's life is a part of the adolescent process, and it was postponed, I think, by our system and by the social and political problems added onto race. Now, my children deal with being black like you deal with having pimples. I think my girls have almost more of a difficulty in adjusting to being women than they do in being black, right now."

Congressman Andrew Young, Atlanta, Ga., on "Assignment America", of Educational Broadcasting Corp., April 1, 1975

WHERE WE ARE IN OCWM

When the goal of \$70,000 was set for the Southeast Conference for 1975, the average receipts needed to achieve that goal was \$5,800 per month. At this rate, by the end of August, the Conference Office would have received \$46,400 for Our Christian World Mission. The Conference Office has received only \$33,905.59, which is an average of \$4,238.07 per month. This leaves us almost \$10,500 short of where we should be at this time. In order to reach our stated goal of \$70,000, we all must pull together and share what we have been given by grace with those who have needs, that they, too, will share in it. In the next 4 months, we need to raise \$36,100. This represents \$9,025 per month - a figure far higher than our original \$5,800 average needed and more than double what we have been giving.

We have been giving to others through designated giving and we should not neglect that. Through August, the Conference Office received \$8,656.64 in these special gifts for others.

Additionally, direct transfers from churches to specific projects and to national agencies amounted to \$3,129.52. This makes our total sharing \$45,691.75. Let us not forget any of these ways of giving, but from now until the end of the year, join in the work and the giving to Our Christian World Mission. On television, they say, "It is 11:00 o'clock — do you know where your children are?" Well, it is the 9th month — do you know where your Church is in O.C.W.M. giving?

J.K.Rowland

Former President of Elon Dies

Dr. L.E. Smith, President of Elon College for a quarter century, died on August 26. His funeral was held in Whitley Memorial Auditorium at Elon College, N. C. by Rev. Millard Stevens.

Dr. Smith, a 1910 graduate of Elon, became president of the College in 1931 and served until 1957. Before assuming the presidency, Dr. Smith served as pastor of Christian churches in Greensboro, Huntington, Ind., and Norfolk, Va. While in Norfolk, Dr. Smith founded the Norfolk Christian Temple, one of the larger churches in the denomination.

Dr. Smith was born in Troup County, Ga. was ordained at 19, when he entered Princeton Seminary. Survivors are a son and a daughter and several grandchildren.

Ministers Met in September

Ministers and others of the Southeast Conference met in clusters across the Conference to learn the approaches to the Curriculum of Christian Education being developed by the United Church of Christ with other denominations. Meetings were held at First Church, Savannah; Macedonia Church, Braselton; 1st Church, Atlanta; Congregational Christian Church, Lanett; St. John's Church, Cullman; Community Church, Pleasant Hill; Pyron's Chapel, Baker, Fla. 85 people attended.

Mrs. Juanita Velasco of Central Church, Atlanta, was the leader at Savannah and Braselton. Rev. Robert E. Koenig, Division of Education, BHM, New York, led the other meetings except the Pyron's Chapel meeting, where W.J. Andes was the leader.

Free Program Resources Available

The Stewardship Council has made available three new program resources free, as follows:

1. 1976-77 Budget presents the annual budget for national Basic Support of Our Christian World Mission for the next two years. It is a source of helpful information about the work and budget of each national agency. It provides the answers to many questions about how some OCWM dollars are spent.

2. A folder on the U.C.C. Hunger Program, *What Am I Doing?*, describes the effort of the United Church of Christ to deal with the world hunger crisis. It also suggests what individuals and congregations can do to help.

3. A contribution envelope, *We can do more . . . we can give more!*, provides a way for individuals who so desire to contribute to the U.C.C. Hunger Fund. As the folder points out, such contributions are to be above and beyond increased giving through already existing channels.

For free copies, write to:

STEWARDSHIP COUNCIL
1505 Race St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

(Include Church, Conf., No. as given in Year Book, Address.)

OPERATION TITHE

[From the Lanett Church Newsletter]

DO YOU TITHE? If your answer is "yes", then praise the Lord! If your answer is "no", consider prayerfully the thoughts that follow.

The tithe is a time-honored practice which has glorified God in the lives of millions of people. In the first Biblical accounts of man's relationship to God, the tithe was not questioned — everyone gave of the first fruits of the land and a tenth was always given to God. In early church life, tithing was a response of love and thanksgiving to God for new life in Christ and for the many ways early Christians saw the effective power of the Holy Spirit guiding, healing, instructing and blessing their lives.

Today, many Christians tithe. Those who do, have discovered that they never lack for anything and that God's promise is real: "BRING THE TITHES INTO THE TREASURY, ALL OF THEM . . . AND THEREBY PUT ME TO THE TEST, SAYS THE LORD OF HOSTS, IF I WILL NOT OPEN THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN FOR YOU AND POUR DOWN FOR YOU AN OVERFLOWING BLESSING." Malachi 3:10. There it is, as clear cut a promise from God as you will find in His Word! Try it! Give it a try for six months, and you'll never stop tithing.

In the New Testament, believers were urged in this way: "UPON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK LET EVERY ONE OF YOU LAY BY HIM IN STORE (Greek for "to set aside an offering") AS GOD HATH PROSPERED." I Cor. 16:2. Proportionate giving, percentage giving, THE TITHE, all mean the same thing. Measure your blessings and then return to the Lord that which is due him. Why does he need it? So that in this world, the work of His Kingdom which He has entrusted to us, may be done. If all who profess to be part of His Church tithed, there would be an overflowing of blessings for the entire world so that the world would have to take notice. Because only part of His Church tithe, the work the Church proposes has to be limited and measured carefully.

One day the Total Key will be used to show your gifts to God. Will you be ashamed as the figures ring up?

Harold N. Auler, Pastor



DR. CHRISTINE SKELTON

LaGrange Native on Ohio Staff

Dr. Christine Skelton, LaGrange native, has recently assumed the position as Associate for Christian Education in the Eastern Ohio Association and the Ohio State Conference.

A graduate of LaGrange High School and LaGrange College, she worked for Dr. Hubert Quilliam, President of LaGrange College, before going to Jacksonville, Fla., where she was associated with Dr. William T. Scott, Sr., and Miss Pattie Lee Coghill in extension work of the denomination. Later she served as Assistant to Dr. Wiley R. Scott, pastor of Community Congregational Church in Miami Beach, Fla. She obtained her Masters and Doctoral degrees from Hartford Seminary, Hartford, Conn., and also studied at the University of California, Berkeley.

Dr. Skelton has had wide experience in her field, having served her denomination in the Washington State Conference, Seattle, and Honolulu, Hawaii, was director of Christian Education at Westmoreland Congregational Church in Washington, D.C., and Minister of Christian Education at Hillcrest Congregational Church in Whittier, Calif. More recently, she served as Minister of Christian Education for three churches in Fremont, Calif.

Dr. Skelton is now located in Canton, Ohio, in the role of Consultant, training leaders with a focus on Church Schools and other educational programs in the Ohio Conference which comprises 600 churches throughout the State.

Christian Enlistment Should Be Underway

Stewardship Sunday is generally set for Sunday, November 9, 1975. Churches should have plans well underway for this event. This is Christian Enlistment Sunday.

The members of the churches are challenged to make their pledges in time, talent and treasure to their church and to their Lord.

General Synod suggests: — That individuals should set aside 10 percent of annual income after taxes for giving for all purposes, including work of the church, and — That individuals should give for the work of the church at least \$1.00 per week for every \$1,000 of gross annual income.

This writer can't get away from a verse of scripture learned long ago in a small country church: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Malachi 3:10).

Try it, November 9th.

WHERE TO NOW ?

This seemed to be uppermost in the deliberations of the Southern Regional meeting of the Council on Mission Priorities at Central Church, Atlanta, Sept. 16-17, 1975.

The Council has strengthened ties between Conferences and the National Instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ. Through the Council have come the heartfelt needs and desires of local churches. These have evolved as priorities for the United Church of Christ.

Conferences have shared problems as well as dreams. Where special needs existed, Conference shared staff and entered into covenants with National Instrumentalities.

Where do we go from here? Some needs have been answered; others have not.

Attending from Southeast Conference were: Franklin Thomas (Moderator), R.J. Wilson, Jr. (Treasurer), Phemie Young (Gen. Synod delegate), Jackie Shrager (representative to national C.M.P.), Warren Blankenhorn, J.K. Rowland, and W.J. Andes (Conference staff). W. T. Scott, Jr., pastor of the host church, was able to attend part of the time.

Other Conferences represented at the Atlanta meeting were: South Central, Florida, and Southern.

SPOTLIGHT: Help Your Neighbor!

The annual **Neighbors in Need** all-church offering on October 5, 1975, was effort to help people in our country, many of them at the lower end of the economic ladder. NIN will help malnourished children, mothers, and the elderly to obtain nutritious food. It will help elderly people to secure the rights and dignity of senior citizens, and it will assist people on welfare to better their lives now and in the future.

The largest proportion of persons receiving welfare are children (48 percent). Others are blind, disabled, or aged (25 percent). Still others are parents, mostly mothers of small children, who find it difficult to both hold a job and care adequately for their families (21 percent). Only 6 percent receive "general assistance" for a variety of other reasons. (HEW statistics.)

So what can you do and what should you do?

First of all, you help people on welfare through your giving to Neighbors in Need offering of your church. Part of the NIN offering this year will be used to research and create a listing to inform welfare recipients where to seek available aid; a list setting forth agencies where victims of high rents can obtain legal aid, where mothers can find work, job training programs and day-care centers; emergency centers for aid.

Part of the money will be used to seek through church and community workshops federal and state legislation which would make possible solving problems of inadequate payment for men in job-training, thus help fathers of welfare families to break the vicious cycle of relief.

Another part of the offering will be used to organize church and community

[Cont. on Page 6]

== NEWS NOTES ==

Harris E. Heverly, of the Church Finance Advisory Service in New York, conducted a Capital Funds Campaign in the First Congregational Church, Savannah, Ga., September 29-October 5.

A class in MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT is being held during the Sunday School hour at Lanett Church. This class is open to anyone married or contemplating marriage in the near future.

Lt. Col. Milton E. White, of Maxwell Air Force Base, Montgomery, Ala., is the pastor of Mt. Olive Church, Tallahassee, Ala.

Rev. Claude A. Shumate of the Christian Church (Disciples) is pastor of First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ga. He also teaches and coaches at Spencer High School in Columbus.

Rev. R. Lynn Gaylor, formerly of North Dakota, has been called to the Robbins Parish (Robbins, Glenmary and Deer Lodge Congregational Churches) as of September 1. For the past eight years, he has served as Director of the Children's Home in Anchorage, Alaska. He is also an excellent wood carver.

Mrs. Gaylor is serving as a substitute teacher in the elementary school at Robbins.

They have two children.

At Todd Church, Shawmut, Ala., the pastor, Rev. Bill Hodnett, preached two Sundays on what Jesus had to say

concerning the hungry. In order to do something about the hunger in the world, money is dropped into special cans on the communion table each Sunday and sent for WORLD HUNGER each month.

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Fandrich of Belvidere, Tenn. celebrated their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, September 7, as planned by their children and grandchildren.

Rev. Wayne Peck, formerly Administrator of Uplands, Inc., Pleasant Hill, Tenn., is now the Vice President for Development of Presbyterian Homes, Inc., for Pennsylvania. His new address is: Box 444, Dillsburg, Pa. 17019.

Southern Alabama Area Youth Mini-Camp will be October 24, 25, 26, at

Dr. David Naglee held a one day New Testament Seminar at Baker Good Hope Saturday, August 23rd, for all the churches in the South Alabama-Northwest Florida Association. The cost was \$25 per church, regardless of how many attended from each church.

Rev. Otto Culpepper, retired minister in Tallahassee, Ala., is recovering satisfactorily from surgery.

A Festival of Pageantry and Music was part of the celebration of the Bicentennial held on August 23, in Birmingham, Alabama. Held in a downtown park, the occasion included a statement about liberty made by Rev. Hank Tuttle, Co-Chairman.

TENT EVENT: R. E. Resource Fair Oct. 24-26

The Religious Education Resourcing Service for Metro Atlanta announces its first TENT EVENT, October 24-26, 1975. The Tent Event — a religious education resource fair — will feature printed materials, curricula, films, cassettes, and other audio-visual aids, as well as workshops and resource persons. All persons involved in local church, school or other areas of religious education and ministry are invited to participate. The 3-day event will be held at Georgia Tech Student Center, at a minimal charge.

The Resource Fair, the first of its kind in the Atlanta area, will offer people from Jewish and Christian congregations an opportunity to meet, gather resources and explore ideas.

On exhibit will be displays of curriculum materials, materials from national publishing companies and local congregations, as well as materials available through local bookstores. Film previews will be scheduled during the course of the week-end.

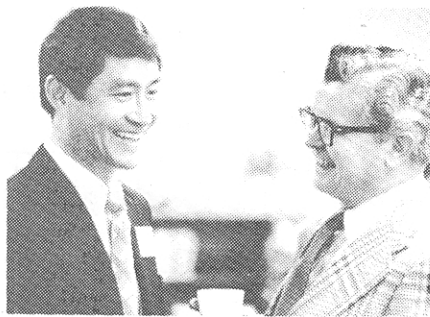
Workshops and demonstrations in drama productions, music, interpretive dance, banner-making, audio-visuals, meditations, and many other skills will also be scheduled. For those persons involved in particular aspects of religious education, or with specific age groups, there will be opportunities to discuss needs, problems and ideas with specialists. The specialists will be from various Christian and Jewish congregations.

The Event begins Friday evening, continues all day Saturday and Saturday night, and will close on Sunday afternoon, but is not scheduled to be open Sunday morning.

One ticket suffices for the entire weekend. Cost is as follows: \$2.00 for one; \$1.50 each for 25 tickets; \$1.25 each for 50 tickets; and \$1.00 each for 100 tickets. All church school teachers, counselors, directors and ministers of education, pastors, rabbis, and school teachers are encouraged to participate.

Tickets and further information may be obtained from:

RERSMA
615 Peachtree St., NE, Suite 501
Atlanta, Ga. 30308
Phone: (404) 876-4681 (T. Wed. Thurs.)
Bonnie Ogie, Director



Dr. Paul R. Gregory, General Secretary of the Mission Division, United Church Board for World Ministries, and Dr. F. Richard Hsu, president of the China Institute in America.

Paul Gregory Re-elected

Reverend Paul R. Gregory, General Secretary of the Mission Division, United Church Board for World Ministries, was recently re-elected as Secretary of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia. The United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia is an interdenominational agency supported by the American Baptist Churches in the USA, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., the United Presbyterian Church in the USA, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Reformed Church in America, the Lutheran Church in America, the United Church of Canada, the United Church of Christ, the United Methodist Church, and the Community Churches.

Dr. Gregory is shown here at a recent meeting of the Trustees of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia with Dr. F. Richard Hsu, who is also a trustee and is President of the China Institute in America.

Dr. Gregory spoke in the churches of Southern Alabama area in February, 1975.

PRIORITIES SET... (fr. P. 1)

25. *Challenging Solitary Confinement
26. *Need for Military Justice
27. *Support for United Farm Workers
28. *Nature of Ministry to Military Personnel
29. *Relations with Indo-China in the Post-War Period.

Programs marked with a star represent those with public policy responsibilities, for which a series of pamphlets is being prepared by Social Action, or its successor-Office for Church in Society. It is hoped that these pamphlets will be available for the Fall 1975 local church programming season.

1775

Spiritual revivals in mid-eighteenth century received impetus from the preaching of Jonathan Edwards, a Massachusetts Congregationalist. The revival in religious experience, called the Great Awakening, spread to the middle and southern colonies and gave rise to a new interest in education and in humanitarian causes. The Great Awakening showed that religious issues and political issues were closely related. Some who were most influenced by this revival were also becoming more and more sure that they could and should resist authoritarian control from England. In this setting, John Wise, an early Congregationalist parson, was probably the first to proclaim that taxation without representation was tyranny.

After the first German Reformed people settled in Pennsylvania, layman John Phillip Boehm began ministering to groups of them as congregations, serving Communion to 40 persons at Falkner Swamp for the first time on October 15, 1725 — 250 years ago. A Philadelphia meeting in 1747 organized approximately 50 congregations into a denomination. These Reformed people, more and more touched by the political unrest, felt bound by conscience to fulfill obligations to the movement for independence. Members of each congregation served in the war effort and ministers, such as John Bucher and Michael Schlatter, enlisted as chaplains. When the Constitution was adopted and George Washington became President in 1789, the Reformed ministers congratulated the new president for "the happy and peaceful establishment of the new government."

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UCC-SEC Respond to Food Crisis... (fr. P. 1)

Conference (N.C. & Va.), South Central Conference (Tex. & La.), the Florida Conference, and our own Southeast represented by Roland Kampmeier, James Cowlshaw, William Hodnett, Edward Brown, and W.J. Andes. National Instrumentalities represented were: Board for World Ministries, represented by Dr. Shirley E. Greene; Center for Social Action, Rev. Larold Schultz; Office of Church Life and Leadership, Mrs. Molly Henderson; Stewardship Council, Rev. David Langerhans; and Office of Communication, Rev. David Tillyer, Editor of "Keeping You Posted."

It was an informative and helpful consultation. We shared what is going on regarding the world food crisis in our own respective Conferences.

The basic task of the consultation was to help us convert our information and convictions into concrete strategies and plan programs of action for the fall and winter of 1975-76 at Conference, regional and national levels. In all of this process, we used the Goals & Objectives adopted by the Tenth General Synod, a very comprehensive statement entitled "The United Church of Christ Confronts the World Food Crisis." We commend this 16-page statement to the churches of our Conference because it is packed with sound Christian faith, current information, and effective suggestions for action. If your church does not yet have a Hunger Committee or Task Force, we hope you will use this statement of Goals and Objectives as a yardstick to measure how you care about the half billion of the world's people facing malnutrition and starvation while you read this article.

- Write Ed Brown, 499 Emory Circle, NE, Atlanta, Ga. 30307, or the Southeast Conference Office, P.O. Box 29883, Atlanta, Ga. 30329.

SPOTLIGHT... [Cont. fr. Page 4]

education programs to help those more fortunate to understand the plight of welfare recipients.

Finally, through churches of your community, you can help fill gaps between existing welfare programs. Many congregations help support day-care centers for children of working mothers, host medical and dental clinics for welfare recipients, or provide emergency aid — food, shelter, clothing — without delays and red tape frequently present in public programs.

LaGrange Dedicates Organ

United Congregational Christian Church (United Church of Christ) of LaGrange held a dedication service at the evening hour of worship on July 20 for a recently purchased Baldwin organ, to replace the old one after twenty years of service to the church.

The dedication was led by the pastor, Dr. David Naglee, followed by a program of music by the church choir, Mrs. Maynard Burnham, Director, the organist, Miss Martha Banks, and two guest organists, Miss Kathryn Cline of LaGrange and Mr. James Clark of Fort Benning, who gave a sacred concert for the very appreciative audience. Preceding the benediction the audience joined in singing, "How Great Thou Art," followed by the Postlude, Gordon Young's "Martyrdom" by Martha Banks.

After the concert members and visitors were invited to a reception.

Mrs. John Laubenthal

OUR SYMPATHY

Our sympathy to Alan Smalley and family of our Chattanooga Church upon the death of Mrs. Smalley on July 14, 1975. Mr. Smalley is Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Ala-Tenn Association.

"The Faith That Comforts"

I go to life and not to death
From darkness to life's native sky.
I go from sickness and from pain
to health and immortality.
Let our farewell, then be tearless
Since I bid farewell to tears.
Write this day of my departure
Festive in your coming years.

by Horatius Bonar

George Fidler Jr. Recovering

George Fidler, Jr., son of pastor George Fidler at the Cullman, Alabama, Church, has made miraculous recovery after his motorcycle accident this summer. His parents spent a great amount of time driving back and forth to Knoxville, where he was hospitalized. Having sustained head and shoulder injuries, as well as a numb left side, he will undergo therapy at the Spain Rehabilitation Center in Birmingham for several weeks.

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After a Day and a Half of Darkness — Light!

YOUTH Magazine recently told the story of how members of a youth fellowship group of Salem United Church of Christ in Allentown, PA, learned to appreciate their sight. For eighteen hours on an overnight retreat they were blindfolded. When the tape and gauze were removed, and darkness turned to light, they found they had a new understanding about life and a new appreciation for persons who do not have the gift of sight.

Only the adult sponsors of the group remained unblindfolded for the weekend in the Pocono mountains. Members of the group were blindfolded before they left the church. Some were overwhelmed by the immediate feeling of dependence on others and by their own helplessness. When they arrived at their destination, they were led into the mountain cabin and asked to move around, finding new ways to identify people and things. They discussed their fears with a partner and talked about their new experience of sensory awareness. Several wondered how they would know when morning came, since it would still be dark. Led by one of the unblindfolded adults, they took a walk in the woods.

What did the young people of Salem U.C.C. learn from their experience? They learned how to accept dependence on others and how to be more supportive and how to be more supportive themselves. They freed themselves from bondage to "what others think of me." It was an exciting weekend!

YOUTH magazine is published each month for Protestant and Roman Catholic young people of eleven participating denominations. Be sure to see every issue of this exciting magazine!

NOTABLE NOTICES

"You may have noticed the increased amount of notices for you to notice. Some of our notices have not been noticed. This is very noticeable! It has been noticed that the responses to the notices have been noticeably unnoticed. This notice is to remind you to notice the notices and respond to the notices because we do not want the notices to go unnoticed."

Reprinted from the United Methodist Church, Long Island, N.Y.